We Claim:

Sub A3 1. A coupler for joining a first conduit having a first diameter and a second conduit, the first conduit having an axis and a first outwardly extending flange having a second diameter axially spaced from a second outwardly extending flange having a third diameter, the coupler comprising:

a housing including an annular hole having an outer diameter and an inner diameter;

the outer diameter of the annular hole being greater than the second diameter of the first outwardly extending flange;

the inner diameter of the annular hole being greater than the first diameter of the first conduit, to permit axial movement of the coupler over the first conduit;

the inner diameter of the annular hole being less than the second diameter of the first outwardly extending flange and less than the third diameter of the second outwardly extending flange to prohibit movement of the portions of the housing defining the annular hole axially along the first conduit over either of the first outwardly extending flange and the second outwardly extending flange;

the housing and the annular hole being formed with at least two sectors radially compressible into a snap fit relationship with the portions of the sectors defining the annular hole disposed between the first outwardly extending flange and the second outwardly extending flange; whereby

the coupler is moveable over the first outwardly extending flange to engage the second conduit, with a portions of the sectors defining the annular hole disposed between the first outwardly extending flange and the second outwardly extending flange.

2. A coupler in the form of a housing having opposite end faces, the coupler for joining two conduits together, wherein the coupler comprises:

an annular hole extending along an axis between said opposite end faces of the housing, the annular hole comprising a first inner diameter, lugs having a second inner diameter, and a flange having a third inner diameter, wherein the first diameter is greater than the second diameter, and the second diameter is greater than the third diameter;

the housing comprising a plurality of sectors that snap together; and

the plurality of sectors being identical to each other in shape and size.

3. The coupler of claim 2, wherein the sectors are sufficiently resilient to enable snap lock action in a relative radially inward direction between said plurality of sectors.

4. The coupler of claim 2, wherein at least one stopping flange is located at an end face of each of the sectors and engages an end face of another of the sectors and prevents relative axial movement between the sectors in first and second axial directions.

5. The coupler of claim 4, wherein each sector has an additional said stopping flange preventing relative movement between the sectors.

6. A coupler in the form of a nut having an annular hole extending between end faces and centered on an axis, the coupler being adapted for coupling two conduits together by a bayonet twist and lock action, comprising:

two sectors of the nut forming having portions defining the annular hole and for surrounding ends of the two conduits by respective axial ends adjacent end faces of the nut;

the sectors being sufficiently resilient to snap lock together; wherein

the sectors snap lock together by relative radially inward movement.

7. The coupler of claim 6, comprising at least one axially elongate rib forming a radially outwardly facing groove and a another axially elongate rib forming a radially inwardly facing groove on each of the two sectors, wherein the ribs resiliently slide over each other into a seated position during a snap locking action of the two sectors.

8. The coupler of claim 7, wherein the sectors may be resiliently pried and separated with a sharp blade of a common tool after the snap locking action.

9. The coupler of claim 7, wherein the ribs prevent relative movement of the two sectors in a plurality of radial directions.

10. A coupler in the form of a nut, the nut having two end faces and an annular hole extending between the two end faces along an axis, the coupler comprising:

the nut having two separable sectors joined along mating surfaces, the mating surfaces comprising a portion defined by a set of lines parallel to the axis of the annular hole and a portion perpendicular to said axis; and

wherein the portion of said mating surfaces defined by lines parallel to the axis prevents relative movement of the sectors in a plurality of radial directions and the portion of said mating surfaces that is perpendicular to said axis prevent relative movement of the sectors in a plurality of axial directions when said sectors are assembled together.

11. A coupler for coupling two conduits together by a bayonet twist and lock action comprising: two sectors forming respective first and second sectors of a nut and defining an annular hole for surrounding ends of the two conduits, wherein each of the two sectors has means for preventing movement of the first sector relative to the second sector in a first axial direction and means for preventing movement of the first sector relative to the second sector in a second axial direction.

12. A coupler for coupling two conduits together by a bayonet twist and lock action comprising:

a nut having an annular hole extending axially between two end faces, the nut having portions defining the annular hole, said portions comprising an inwardly extending flange for rotational retention on a first of said two conduits, said portions having lugs protruding radially inwardly thereon for sliding past bosses of a second of said two conduits in bayonet twist action; wherein

the coupler comprises a locking flange protruding axially from an end face of the coupler, said locking flange having a socket adapted to engage a protrusion on the second of the two conduits for bayonet lock action.

13. A pipe combination, comprising:

a first pipe having a first end with a first bayonet tube disposed at the first end;

a second pipe having a second end with an annular space defined between a first annular flange and a second annular flange, the first annular flange having a diameter greater than the diameter of the annular space;

a pipe coupler having a wall with an axial bore extending between opposing first and second faces, the axial bore having a diameter;

first portions of the coupler extending into the bore at the first face, the first portions having a diameter greater than the diameter of the annular space and less than the diameter of the first flange;

second portions of the coupler extending into the bore and forming a second bayonet tube;

the coupler being adapted for disposition at an operative site with the first portions of the coupler disposed in the space of the first pipe;

the coupler being rotatable at the operative site to engage the first bayonet tube with the second bayonet tube and to draw the second end of the second pipe into fluid communication with the first end of the first pipe; and

the coupler being formed in at least two separate parts adapted to be radially snap fit to form the coupler at the operative site.

14. A combination, comprising:

(a) a first conduit having an outwardly extending flange on an end of the first conduit,

(b) a second conduit having bosses or threads extending radially outward on an end of the second conduit,

(c) a coupler forming an annular hole, coupler having portions defining said annular hole, said portions having an inwardly extending flange that receives and holds the outwardly extending flange on the end of the first conduit and lugs or threads that couple to the bosses or threads on the end of the second conduit for a coupled configuration; and

wherein the coupler comprises two sectors connected in fixed relation by relative radial movement in a snap lock action.

15. The combination of claim 14, wherein the first conduit has a second outwardly protruding flange that prevents axial movement of the coupler along the first conduit.

16. The combination of claim 14, wherein the two sectors snap locking together with said portions defining the annular hole surrounding the first conduit and retained thereon by interference of the flanges

17. The coupler and conduits combination of claim 16, further comprising ribs and grooves on the two sectors, wherein ribs seat in grooves in the fixed relation and limit radial movement in a plurality of directions, and wherein the first conduit stops relative radial movement of the two sectors in all remaining directions.

18. The coupler and conduits combination of claim 16, wherein:

the first conduit has a nipple on the end; and

the nipple is surrounded by the coupler.

sub A4 19. A method of using a coupler in the form of a nut having a first sector and a second sector defining an annular hole extending between end faces of the nut, the coupler being adapted for coupling a first and a second conduit together, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) separating said first and the second sectors of the coupler sufficiently to receive the first conduit,

(b) surrounding an outwardly extending flange of the first conduit by portions of the sectors defining said annular hole,

(c) flexibly forcing the sectors radially inwardly to a snap lock configuration, wherein the first and second sectors of the coupler form said nut and surround the first conduit, and

(d) moving the coupler axially and rotationally with respect to the second conduit thereby coupling the second conduit to the first conduit

20. The method of using of claim 19 wherein the step of flexibly forcing the sectors radially inwardly further comprises:

(a) locating a first rib of the first sector in a second groove of the second sector,

(b) hinging the first sector relative to the second sector about said first rib radially inwardly to engage the second sector, and

(c) snapping a second rib of said first sector into a first groove of the second sector at a location diametrically opposite said first rib and said second groove relative to said annular hole.